

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 15, 2011

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

2010 CENSUS

File Number 2301400

Introduction

Starting in March 2011 the U.S. Census Bureau began releasing San Diego results from the 2010 Census. In June 2011, the Census Bureau released the detailed "Summary File" tables for San Diego. SANDAG staff are processing the raw data for use in a wide variety of local planning projects.

Discussion

Background Information on the 2010 Census

As the Regional Census Data Center for San Diego County, SANDAG worked with the Census Bureau to prepare for the 2010 Census. SANDAG staff assisted the Census Bureau and local jurisdictions with local updates to census addresses and updating census geography, such as census tracts.

The first 2010 Census data release occurred this past March with the redistricting data, which included information on population by race and ethnicity. The Summary File 1 data were released in June. This most recent, and final, release of data from Census 2010 includes population data by age, gender, race/ethnicity, as well as housing data by occupancy and owner status. The 2010 Census data do not include socio-economic characteristic data, such as household income or how people commute to work. That information is now included in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

The Census Bureau has a program to handle possible challenges to the 2010 Census count. The Count Question Resolution (CQR) Program allows State, local and Tribal area elected officials to challenge counts under three conditions:

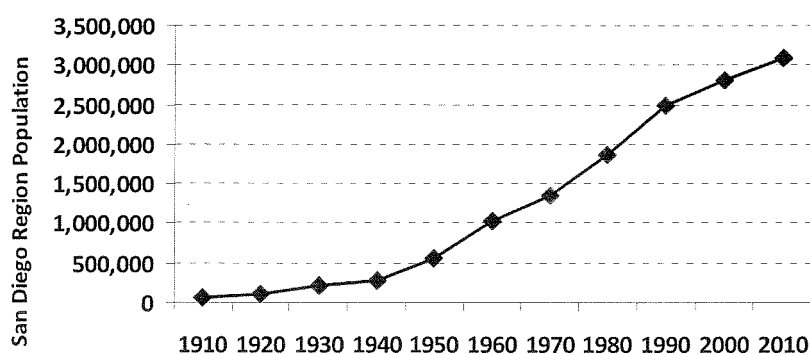
1. If the Census Bureau has the incorrect jurisdiction boundary;
2. If the Census Bureau incorrectly address matched households into the wrong area; or
3. If the Census Bureau incorrectly added or deleted households or people due to processing errors.

More information about this program can be found at the Census Bureau's Web site:
<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/cqr.php>.

Population Growth in San Diego County 1910-2010

In the past 100 years, the San Diego Region (18 cities and unincorporated county) has grown from a small city of 60,000 people to a thriving metropolitan area of more than 3 million. In San Diego's early years, Census figures show that the county's population nearly doubled every ten years from 1910 to 1960. Between 1960 and 1990 growth slowed to an average increase of approximately 33 percent every ten years. Growth slowed again in the past two decades, with less than a 15 percent increase 1990-2000 and only 10 percent growth from 2000-2010. As of April 1, 2010, the San Diego region reached a total population of 3,095,313 residents. (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1: Population in San Diego County 1910-2010



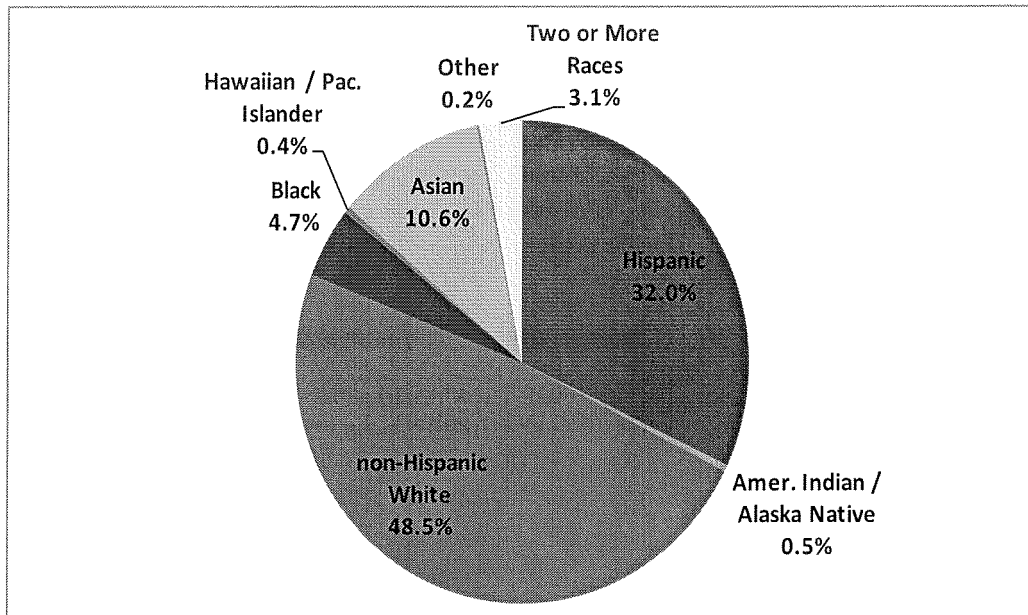
The largest city in the county is the City of San Diego, with more than 1.3 million residents, and the smallest is Del Mar, with just under 4,200 residents. San Marcos, Chula Vista, and Carlsbad were the fastest growing between 2000 and 2010, increasing by 52 percent, 41 percent, and 35 percent, respectively. The City of San Diego added the most residents (74,566, a 6 percent increase). A handful of coastal cities showed no growth over the decade, including Del Mar, Imperial Beach, and Solana Beach; Poway also saw a small population decline from 2000 to 2010.

Race and Ethnicity

One of the biggest demographic shifts highlighted by the 2010 Census is confirmation that San Diego is now a "majority-minority" county. This means that no single race or ethnic group accounts for more than half of the region's population. (See Figure 2.)

The Asian population, which grew fastest, increased by 34 percent (to 328,000 residents) between 2000 and 2010. The Hispanic/Latino population increased by 32 percent over the decade, and now accounts for approximately one third of the county's total population (991,000 residents). Conversely, the non-Hispanic White, Black, and American Indian populations all declined slightly during the decade (by 3, 5, and 8 percent, respectively).

Figure 2: San Diego Region Race/Ethnicity 2010



Aging Population

Another major demographic shift in the San Diego region is the aging of the population. Between 2000 and 2010 the median age of the population rose from 33.2 to 34.6. While the population as a whole grew by 10 percent over the decade, the population age 55 to 64 grew by approximately 60 percent and the population age 85 and older grew by nearly 50 percent. On the other hand the region's population of children (grade school ages 5 through 14) declined, and the population of infants and toddlers (those younger than age 5) remained flat. The aging of the population has potentially wide-ranging implications for the region's transportation system.

Housing - Occupancy and Household Size

While much talk about the Census revolves around the demographic characteristics of the population, the 2010 Census will also provide valuable information about neighborhood housing characteristics, including occupancy rates and average household size.

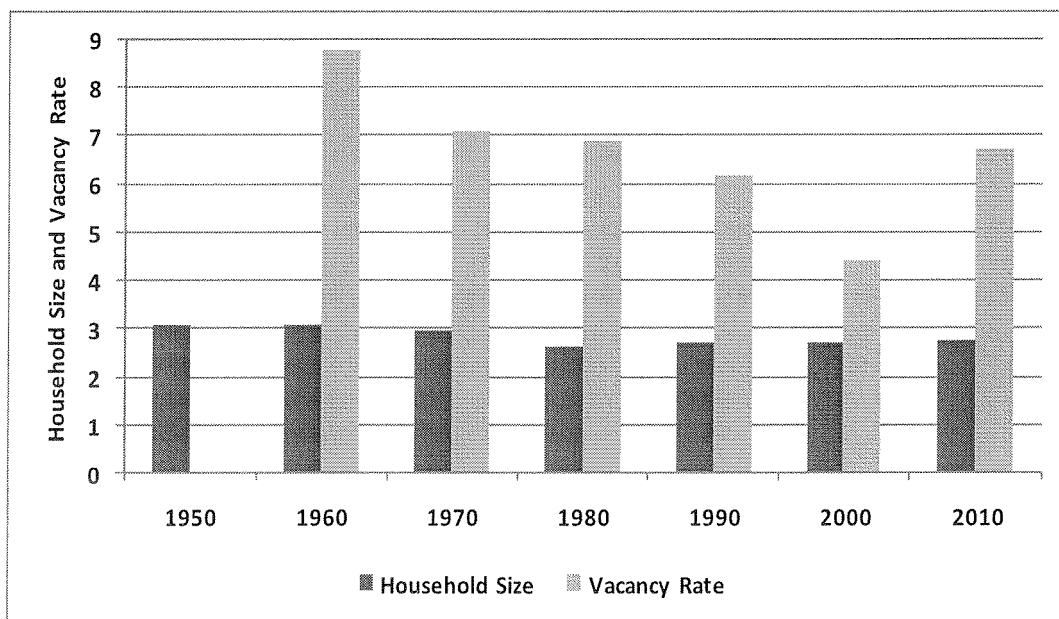
Household characteristics, such as average household size, are critical input into any transportation, parks, schools, public safety, or water and wastewater planning process. Average household size is the number of residents living in housing units, divided by the number of occupied housing units. The ratio excludes population living in group quarters facilities such as college dorms or military barracks, which are counted separately in the Census. The average household size ratio can be used to extrapolate future demand for facilities and services in residential developments. For planners working in the field of residential planning, the 2010 Census will provide useful information on current neighborhood conditions, including areas of high and low vacancy, and high and low average household size.

In 1950, the average household size in San Diego was more than 3.1 persons per household. This decreased steadily as birth rates and average family size fell during the 1960s and 1970s, and by 1980, the region hit a low of 2.6 persons per household. However, birth rates began to rise starting in the mid-1970s, and a similar upward trend can be seen in average household size in recent decades. (See Figure 3.)

Increasing average household size means that each new housing unit is likely to accommodate more residents, thus potentially increasing demand for transportation infrastructure, parks, libraries, and other public facilities in the future.

In addition to changes in household size, the vacancy rate has varied throughout the region's history. The region's lowest vacancy rates, were during the housing boom in the early 2000s, and have risen considerably – back to rates reminiscent of the 1970s and 1980s – in the past three years. Data from the 2010 Census shows a residential vacancy rate of 6.7 percent for San Diego County. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3: San Diego Region Household Size/Vacancy Rate 1950-2010



Opposite the trend in larger average household size, rising residential vacancy means that each new housing unit is less likely to be occupied, resulting in fewer new residents per unit. Higher vacancy rates potentially reduce demand for parks, libraries, and other public facilities in the future. In general, it appears that the competing trends of higher average household size and higher vacancy rate appear to be cancelling each other out for the time being.

Next Steps

SANDAG staff will use the data from Census 2010 to inform future planning efforts, such as the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Series 13 Regional Growth Forecast, criminal justice analysis, and other regional projects. In addition, in coming months staff will roll out a series of data products that reflect the results of the 2010 Census.

KURT KRONINGER
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contacts: Kristen Rohanna, (619) 699-6918, kroh@sandag.org
Beth Jarosz, (619) 699-6997, bja@sandag.org